



# Washington State Department of Early Learning

Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) Meeting  
February 2, 2016—K20

## State Agency and Partner Updates

### Agency/Partner Update

#### Department of Early Learning (DEL)

For more information please contact Frank Ordway at [Frank.Ordway@del.wa.gov](mailto:Frank.Ordway@del.wa.gov)

- Two bills were submitted to the Legislature by DEL's request. HB 2621 and its companion SB 6370 address an issue with licensing background checks and the sharing of information between DEL and DSHS. HB 2671/SB 6371 remove's DEL's responsibility for regulating school-aged child care.
- The agency is conducting its final round of interviews to hire a tribal liaison position and we are hoping to make a decision soon.
- In partnership with KBTC Public Television and Visions for Early Learning (the West Central Early Learning Regional Coalition), DEL is screening The Raising of America documentary on Jan. 27 at 5:30 p.m. at ESD 113. A panel discussion about early child health and development and better outcomes for kids will follow the film. To find out more or to RSVP visit DEL's Facebook page.
- The inaugural Early Start Act Annual Report was finalized in December of last year and submitted to the Legislature. The full contents of the report, along with an executive summary, can be found on the DEL website at [www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct](http://www.del.wa.gov/government/EarlyStartAct).
- The Department of Early Learning (DEL) is observing National Child Abuse Prevention month in April 2016 by raising awareness in communities about child abuse and neglect prevention. As the Prevent Child Abuse Washington State Chapter we encourage you to join the Pinwheels for Prevention initiative. This initiative uses pinwheels – a timeless symbol for childhood – to represent its campaign. Please place your order for pinwheels as soon as possible using the form found here: [http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/partnerships/docs/PinwheelsforPrevention\\_OrderForm.docx](http://www.del.wa.gov/publications/partnerships/docs/PinwheelsforPrevention_OrderForm.docx) or by emailing [strengtheningfamilies@del.wa.gov](mailto:strengtheningfamilies@del.wa.gov). Pinwheels are available on a first come, first serve basis and will be available for delivery in March.

#### Department of Health & Social Services (DSHS)

No update at this time.

#### Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI)

For more information please contact Bob Butts at [Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us](mailto:Bob.Butts@k12.wa.us)

- **Full-day K**
  - a. 100% of school may receive funding next school year (2016-17)
  - b. Schools not required to offer it next year
    - i. Have until April 15 to let us know

- ii. Are asking if they are displacing pre-school programs
  - c. Is required in 2017-18
  - d. \$200 million available for classroom space: Applications were submitted in December
- **K-3 Teacher Supply and Demand**
  - a. It is getting harder to find elementary teachers, according to School Principals
  - b. OSPI has Teacher and Substitute Shortage Legislation
  - c. Information on the shortages is available at:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/LegisGov/TeacherShortage.aspx>
- **Early Numeracy**
  - a. Training session on the Counting and Cardinality module is scheduled for March 23-24
  - b. Working with DEL and Thrive to developing a 5-year implementation plan to improve Kindergarten readiness outcomes
- **Early Literacy Pathway**
  - a. Being created by Molly-Branson Thayer at the UW
  - b. Will be shared at the Reading Summit in Portland January 22-23 and available thereafter
  - c. Next steps for rollout are being formulated
- **Conferences: Save the dates!**
  - a. Reading Summit, Portland, January 22-23
  - b. WERA P-3 Conference, SeaTac, March 10
  - c. Infant and Early Childhood Conference, Tacoma, May 5-8
  - d. Starting Strong, Tacoma, August 1-3

## **Department of Health (DOH)**

**For more information please contact Maria Nardella at [Maria.Nardella@DOH.WA.GOV](mailto:Maria.Nardella@DOH.WA.GOV)**

- **Free Online STARS training Course: Let's Move! Child Care: Breastfeeding Support.**  
This training is for early childhood professionals on how to support breastfeeding moms and babies. The training was developed and is maintained by state-approved trainers at the University of Washington Center for Public Health Nutrition. The material has been adapted from the national Let's Move! Child Care training on infant feeding. Participants who complete the training will earn 1 STARS continuing education credit in Health, Safety & Nutrition. This online training is available to early childhood professionals with support from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and the Washington State Department of Health.  
[http://depts.washington.edu/uwcphn/work/ece/lmccbfs\\_module.shtml](http://depts.washington.edu/uwcphn/work/ece/lmccbfs_module.shtml)
- **Help Me Grow Washington.** There is amazing work going on to build a universal developmental screening system in Washington State. Universal Developmental Screening for all children is a collective impact initiative with multilayers of work across the state. From work at the local level with the health jurisdictions in their counties and regions, to the state level work, movement and awareness is progressing. Called Help Me Grow Washington, this initiative has a Common Agenda across partners and sets

strategy that allows partners and others to take collective and independent actions that advance our goal of ***all families have equitable access to screenings that identify developmental challenges, and then are supported by services that respond to each child's needs as they learn, grow and achieve their full potential.*** Our five strategies, each supported by sub-strategies, drive toward our goal. Five action teams work to implement strategies and sub-strategies. Our Focus & Momentum Team implements cross-cutting strategies, tracks progress, guides change when necessary and champions our efforts. Our shared measures drive action and determine our success. As an important player in Washington's national Help Me Grow system, we are building the four core components of the national initiative: 1) Child health care provider outreach; 2) Community outreach; 3) A centralized telephone access point; 4) Data collection. For more information or to be involved, contact Carol Dean at DOH (phone: 360-236-3572; email: carol.dean@doh.wa.gov)

- **Medicaid Reimbursement for Developmental Screening.** Effective January 1, 2016, the Health Care Authority is implementing the developmental and autism screenings for young children as recommended by the American Academy of Pediatrics' Bright Futures Guidelines. This change complies with Substitute Senate Bill 5317 passed in the 2015 legislative session. For Washington Apple Health clients, the agency will pay for developmental screenings at ages 9 months, 18 months, and 24 months, and autism screenings at age 18 months and 24 months. The agency will update the [Early Periodic Screening, Diagnosis and Treatment \(EPSDT\) Provider Guide](#) by January 1, 2016, to reflect this change.
- **New Data from Pilot Project Looking at Younger Children with ASD.** A new CDC report, published in the *Journal of Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics*, supports the work we have been doing in Washington State to promote universal developmental screening and screening for autism. This report suggests that progress has been made in identifying children with autism spectrum disorder (ASD) at younger ages. The earlier children are identified as having ASD, the sooner they can get services they need to help them reach their full potential. Health professionals, childcare providers and educators who work with preschool-aged children can use this new information to help ensure that all children with ASD are identified and connected to services as soon as possible. Key findings: <http://www.cdc.gov/ncbddd/autism/features/characteristics.html>. Abstract: [http://journals.lww.com/jrnldb/Abstract/publishahead/Prevalence\\_and\\_Characteristics\\_of\\_Autism\\_Spectrum.99555.aspx](http://journals.lww.com/jrnldb/Abstract/publishahead/Prevalence_and_Characteristics_of_Autism_Spectrum.99555.aspx).
- **Items of Interest Requested by Washington State Department of Health and Funded in Governor's Proposed 2016 Budget.** The Governor's release of his proposed budget is the start of the supplemental budget process. The House of Representatives and Senate will release their proposed budgets during the legislative session, which starts January 11 and is scheduled to last 60 days (a "short session"). Then there will need to be a negotiated budget between the executive branch and legislature which can pass with enough votes.

- **Public Health Reporting for Schools – \$511,000**

This funding invests in an immunization validation tool in the State's Immunization Information System (IIS) and rolls out this IIS School Module statewide. The immunization validation tool is an IIS interface that will electronically determine if a child meets all immunization requirements for school entry using data from the child's immunization records. The School Module, a tool within the IIS, will allow schools to easily and accurately determine whether a student is in compliance with school immunization requirements.

- **Healthiest Next Generation – \$264,000 (Department of Early Learning and Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction)**

Funding is being added to the budgets in DEL at \$94,000 and OSPI at \$170,000 to continue partnering with DOH on the implementation of strategies in early learning settings, schools and communities across Washington State to support children's health.

- **Guidelines for Care of Students with Diabetes.** The Heart Disease, Stroke, and Diabetes Prevention Unit at the Department of Health is convening a workgroup to update the Guidelines for Care of Students with Diabetes:  
<http://www.k12.wa.us/HealthServices/pubdocs/diabetes/GuidelinesStudentswithDiabetes.pdf>. This document is used statewide by nurses, school staff, and parents to set up and implement plans primarily for the care of students K-12 with diabetes. It also contains useful information, tools, and resources for preschools and child care centers that have young children with diabetes. It was last updated in 2005. The workgroup members include parents, school nurses, the American Diabetes Association, Seattle Children's Hospital, Sacred Heart, Department of Health, Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction, and local health departments. We anticipate the new guidelines to be published by April 2016. We are currently seeking additional people to review the document before it's published. If you are interested in being a reviewer, please contact Lanae Caulfield at [Lanae.Caulfield@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Lanae.Caulfield@doh.wa.gov).
- **MCH Listserv.** The Maternal and Child Health (MCH) Listserv hosted by the Department of Health is an interactive system that sends out and receives information about family, child, youth and maternal health. Information shared ranges from local to international work. If you would like to be added to the listserv, please contact Shanne Montague at [shanne.montague@doh.wa.gov](mailto:shanne.montague@doh.wa.gov) or 360-236-3560. You can also use the listserv to post articles, information about your program, training opportunities, and questions.
- **Environmental Toxicants.** The Department of Health Office of Environmental Public Health Sciences has a new web resource for providers:  
[www.doh.wa.gov/PrenatalCareforEnvironmentalChemicals](http://www.doh.wa.gov/PrenatalCareforEnvironmentalChemicals). The focus of the page is to increase awareness and reduce prenatal exposure to environmental chemicals that impair children's learning and behavior. Providers can help pregnant women minimize exposure to these toxicants and give young children a healthy start in life. For more information contact **Barbara Morrissey** at [Barbara.morrissey@doh.wa.gov](mailto:Barbara.morrissey@doh.wa.gov).

## Thrive Washington (Thrive)

For more information please contact Sam Whiting at [Sam@thrivewa.org](mailto:Sam@thrivewa.org)

- **Thrive's 2016 Advocacy Agenda** is now online along with a blog: [https://thrivewa.org/thrives-2016-advocacy-agenda/?blm\\_aid=28898](https://thrivewa.org/thrives-2016-advocacy-agenda/?blm_aid=28898)
- **Statewide Meeting of the Early Learning Regional Coalitions and Advocacy Day 2016:** On Feb. 18, representatives from the 10 statewide ELRCs will gather in Olympia for one of their three meetings for the year. They will focus on increasing diverse community input through culturally competent meetings and discussing ideas for how we reach DEL's big goal of having 90% of kids ready for kindergarten by 2020. On the evening of Feb. 18, Thrive will host a reception for legislators to thank them for helping to create Thrive and DEL 10 years ago and for their increasing support of early learning. On the 19<sup>th</sup>, coalitions will meet with their local legislators.
- **Midpoint Report of State Early Learning Plan:** Five years ago, a statewide 10-Year Early Learning Plan was released to help us build a high-quality early learning system that would offer all children the best start in life possible. To mark the midpoint of the plan, the Early Learning Partnership — Department of Early Learning, Department of Health, Department of Social & Health Services, Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction and Thrive Washington — recently released a report highlighting the Partnership's progress on five of the plan's 36 strategies and the challenges that keep us from helping EVERY child start kindergarten ready to succeed. [bit.ly/1Ro5HV8](http://bit.ly/1Ro5HV8)
- **Preparing for the 2016 Elections:** In early December, Thrive led a panel ([watch now: http://bit.ly/1NAImKz](http://bit.ly/1NAImKz)) on Preparing for the 2016 Elections at ZERO TO THREE's National Training Institute in Seattle. On the panel were Thrive's Sam Whiting; Mark Shriver, president of Save the Children Action Network; Thrive board member and Washington state Sen. Steve Litzow; and Karen Howard, vice president of early education policy for First Focus in Washington DC. Key takeaway: Every voice counts, and sometimes all it takes is a handful of contacts -- calls, emails and conversations -- to have a profound influence.
- **2016 Leadership Luncheon:** Thrive's annual luncheon will be held Wednesday, April 6 at the Sheraton Seattle. The luncheon typically attracts between 400-500 business, community and early learning leaders and is a celebration of early learning and the progress that Thrive and our partners are making across the state. This year, we will celebrate Thrive's (and the Department of Early Learning's) 10th Anniversary by setting a vision for rapid progress in the next five years. <https://thrivewa.org/luncheon/>